

United Nations



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1643
12 May 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council President condemns illegal attempt in Haiti to replace President Aristide; reaffirms its commitment to restoring democracy there in accordance with Governors Island Agreement.
- + Secretary-General, in Paris, convenes high-level meeting on former Yugoslavia; stresses need for comprehensive approach to situation and early convening of international conference.
- + Secretary-General proposes that Security Council refine definition of safe areas and UNPROFOR's related mission; says safe-area concept should not be extended in Bosnia and Herzegovina, citing Force's limited resources.
- + International Tribunal on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia adopts rules on the detention of persons awaiting trial or appeal; amends Rules of Procedure and Evidence for sexual assault cases.
- + Special Committee on Israeli Human Rights Practices completes mission to Egypt, Jordan and Syria; says situation in occupied territories has worsened since signing of Declaration of Principles by Israel and PLO.
- + Mexico asks United Nations for technical assistance for forthcoming elections.

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The Security Council has strongly condemned the attempt in Haiti to replace the country's legitimate President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In a statement issued by its President, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) yesterday, the Council reaffirmed its condemnation of any such illegal attempt to remove President Aristide. It stressed that participants in any illegal governments in Haiti were subject to the travel restrictions and the freezing of funds provided for in resolution 917 (1994).

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The Council reaffirmed its determination to ensure full and effective compliance with all relevant resolutions. It also reaffirmed its commitment to the restoration of democracy in Haiti and the return of President Aristide, under the framework of the Governors Island Agreement.

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Continuing his visit to Paris, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today convened a high-level meeting on all aspects of the situation in the former Yugoslavia. It was attended by Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia; Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; Under-Secretaries-General Kofi Annan and Marrack Goulding; and General Bertrand de Lapresle, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

During the meeting, the Secretary-General reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to all the problems of the former Yugoslavia, which could best be addressed through the early convening of an international conference. He also underlined the need for a general cease-fire throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, and urged all parties to make that possible.

The meeting also dealt with the impossibility of applying the safe-area concept to Brcko; the reopening of Tuzla airport for humanitarian flights; efforts to secure the release of 11 French nationals being held by the Bosnian Serbs; and the fragility of the cease-fire in Croatia. The Secretary-General noted that a conference on the reconstruction of Sarajevo would be convened in Vienna on 24 May, and appealed for generous contributions to the trust fund established for that purpose.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed that the Security Council refine its definition of the safe-area concept, and support the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in implementing it more effectively. In a report to the Council dated 9 May, the Secretary-General said UNPROFOR's mission in relation to the Bosnian safe areas should be more clearly defined. The safe areas should be delineated, as proposed by UNPROFOR, and respected by all parties. He also urged that complete freedom of movement for humanitarian aid be ensured on a "notification", as opposed to a "clearance", basis.

The safe areas were intended to protect people, not to defend territory, and UNPROFOR's protection of them was not intended to make it a party to the conflict, the Secretary-General said. That mission should not detract from, but rather enhance, the Force's original mandate, namely supporting humanitarian operations and the overall peace process. UNPROFOR's mandate must take into account its resource limitations and the conflicting priorities inevitably arising from unfolding events. He stressed that UNPROFOR must remain impartial, and must use force only in clearly defined circumstances and in response to actions by the parties to the conflict.

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The Secretary-General said the safe-area concept should not be extended in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as UNPROFOR was already "overstretched and underresourced." He expressed concern about the continuing shortfall in troop contributions, adding that the Force must receive sufficient human and material resources for the tasks entrusted to it.

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The International Tribunal on war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia has adopted rules governing the detention of persons who are awaiting trial or an appeal before it. The rules cover the management of the detention centre, the rights of detainees, and their removal and transportation. The Tribunal took that action at the end of its third session in the Hague last week.

The Tribunal also unanimously amended its Rules of Procedure and Evidence so that, in sexual assault cases, no corroboration of the victim's testimony would be required. Consent would not be allowed as a defence if the victim had been threatened or feared psychological oppression, and prior sexual conduct would not be admitted in evidence. The Tribunal also approved a list of judges who will be assigned on a monthly basis to review any indictments issued by the Office of the Prosecutor.

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The Special Committee on Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People of the Occupied Territories last week completed a field mission to Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Committee was established by the General Assembly in 1968 to investigate such practices in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and to report through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

During the mission, the Committee received testimony from 37 witnesses with recent and first-hand knowledge of the situation in the occupied territories. It focused on human rights developments since the signing of the Declaration of Principles by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) last year. The Committee noted that despite the Declaration and the expectations raised by it, the human rights situation in the occupied territories had deteriorated rather than improved. While more than 1,000 prisoners had been released since the signing, the number of administrative detentions and arrests had increased, causing uncertainty about the number of people still under detention.

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The Government of Mexico has formally asked the United Nations for assistance with regard to national elections there next August, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He noted that the request was for technical assistance and did not relate to the verification or conduct of the elections. A team from the Electoral Assistance Unit of the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations is currently in Mexico City.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1644

13 May 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General discusses Rwanda situation with Special Representative Booh-Booh and other officials in Paris; says Security Council should substantially enlarge UNAMIR for humanitarian purposes.
- + IAEA to send team to inspect reprocessing plant in Democratic People's Republic of Korea; parties to hold discussions on Experimental Nuclear Power Plant at later date.
- + Sri Lanka tells Committee on Information that DPI should explain, not conceal, factors hindering United Nations activities; Uruguay calls for more information on social development and humanitarian affairs.
- + World Health Assembly, concluding forty-seventh session in Geneva, achieves unprecedented consensus in resolution on health conditions in occupied Arab territories.

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Continuing his stay in Paris, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today held a working meeting on the situation in Rwanda, according to a United Nations spokesman. The meeting was attended by Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Rwanda; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; and Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations.

The Secretary-General underlined the importance of an early cease-fire in Rwanda and implementation of the Arusha Accord, which remained the basis for the peace process. Meanwhile, he had recommended that the Security Council substantially enlarge the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to meet the need for urgent humanitarian action in the country. He welcomed the proposed establishment of protected zones for displaced persons close to Rwanda's borders, but said an equal effort was needed to meet humanitarian needs in the interior. The Secretary-General asked Special Representative Booh-Booh to return to Kigali, and assured him of his full confidence and support.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will send a team to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea within days to carry out inspection activities which the Agency was not allowed to undertake at a reprocessing plant last March. The team will also perform such tasks as servicing cameras and checking seals at the plant and at the Experimental Nuclear Power Plant. In addition, it will seek to verify information provided by the People's Republic that there is still an opportunity to select and secure fuel rods for measurements later in the year.

The People's Republic has agreed to hold working level discussions with the IAEA on technical matters related to the core discharge at the Experimental Nuclear Power Plant. However, the time and place for such discussions have yet to be agreed.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) should explain rather than conceal factors which hamper the success of United Nations activities, the representative of Sri Lanka told the Committee on Information today as it continued its general debate. He said the Organization's role must be accurately portrayed by the media and called for a closer working relationship between the DPI and New York-based correspondents.

Uruguay expressed concern that excessive focus was being given to peace-keeping operations, at the expense of such areas as social development and humanitarian affairs. It called for more information on forthcoming United Nations events, such as the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in September and the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen next year.

Yesterday, representatives discussed the impact of integrating United Nations field offices with information centres. Ukraine said a unified approach to the centres was the most cost effective way to integrate information activities within the United Nations system. The Indian representative praised the DPI for having kept up with technological changes, citing the high quality of the United Nations Radio Bulletin Board. He suggested that the DPI commercialize the Bulletin Board by asking users to pay for the service.

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The World Health Assembly yesterday concluded its forty-seventh session in Geneva by adopting by consensus a resolution on health conditions in the occupied Arab territories. The Assembly -- the governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO) -- had included that topic on its agenda for every session since 1975, leading to contentious debates and resolutions adopted amid strong opposition from some States. Yesterday's consensus was said to

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have been facilitated by the signing last year of the Declaration of Principles by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and by the recent accord on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The resolution recognized the need for extra health assistance for the Arab populations in the occupied territories. It affirmed that transferring responsibility for health to the Palestinian people would lead to improvements in their health system. During its session, the Assembly also restored South Africa's membership rights, which had been suspended for 30 years because of the country's system of apartheid.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1645

16 May 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General recommends rapid deployment of UNAMIR II, with at least 5,500 troops and six-month mandate, to tackle humanitarian crisis in Rwanda; Mission would provide security for relief operations and displaced persons.
- + Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend ONUSAL mandate for six months to continue to verify compliance with El Salvador Peace Accords.
- + Five Nepalese UNOSOM II troops killed, in confrontation with gunmen in southern Mogadishu; sixth peace-keeper kidnapped from hospital.
- + Secretary-General, in letter to Security Council, says United Nations Compensation Commission is facing financial emergency; urges Council to consider facilitating transfer of Iraq's oil-related frozen assets to Compensation Fund.
- + UNHCR appeals to warring sides in Yemen to allow a relief convoy to reach Somalis in Al Koud refugee camp.
- + Security Council approves appointment of three military advisers to assist Secretary-General's Representative in Cambodia.
- + UNDCP to host International NGO Conference on global drug problem in New York from 18 to 20 May.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council expand the mandate and strength of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda to help alleviate the country's humanitarian crisis. In a report dated 13 May, he said the Mission, to be known as UNAMIR II, would have to be "credible, well-armed and highly mobile", and would need at least 5,500 troops, including 5 infantry battalions. It would have an initial mandate of 6 months, subject to review by the Council. He did not envisage a need for enforcement action, saying the Mission would depend primarily on deterrence to

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carry out its tasks. However, it might have to take action to defend itself or persons under its protection.

The Secretary-General said UNAMIR II would provide security for humanitarian organizations, and establish sites where displaced people could be protected. He welcomed a proposal that such sites be set up near Rwanda's borders with Burundi and Tanzania, but stressed that a similar effort was needed in the country's interior, where five times as many people were in need. UNAMIR II would also monitor border crossing points and the deployment of the parties to the conflict. He highlighted the importance of Kigali airport, and said it should be designated a neutral zone under the United Nations control.

The Secretary-General said UNAMIR II would be under the overall control of his Special Representative, while the Force Commander would be responsible for its military component. The Mission would cost an estimated \$115 million for the initial six months. He stressed that the crisis in Rwanda must be solved through implementation of the Arusha Peace Accord, but said a cease-fire was urgently needed in the meantime. The Secretary-General also stressed that the international community could not ignore the atrocious effects of the conflict on innocent civilians, and urged that UNAMIR II be deployed without delay.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) be extended for six months until 30 November. In a report to the Security Council dated 11 May, he said ONUSAL should continue to verify compliance with outstanding provisions of the El Salvador Peace Accords. The Mission's size would be reduced according to how quickly those provisions were implemented.

The Secretary-General urged the Salvadorean parties to meet their remaining commitments without delay, and identified four areas needing urgent attention. The civilian character of the National Civil Police must be enhanced, and the National Police demobilized by the end of the year. The Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) must also approve any transfer of personnel from the National Police to the Civil Police. He said the pressing problem of human settlements must be solved, and stressed that people entitled to land under the land transfer programme must have access to agricultural credit and technical aid in time for the planting season. He appealed to the international community for continued financial support for peace-related programmes in El Salvador.

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Five Nepalese peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) were killed today after their vehicle was stopped by "armed elements" in southern Mogadishu, according to a spokesman for the

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Organization. A sixth Nepalese peace-keeper wounded in the ambush was later kidnapped from the hospital where he was being treated and is still unaccounted for.

Meanwhile, there has been a big decrease in the number of cholera cases in Somalia, despite incidences of the disease in the northwest of the country. The spokesman attributed the decrease to improved medical facilities, but stressed that it was important for the Somali public to be aware of the health hazard cholera still posed.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali has expressed concern about the "financial emergency" facing the United Nations Compensation Commission after three years of intensive work. In a letter to the Security Council dated 13 May, he said the Commission had sufficient funds to pay some \$4 million in compensation awards likely to be approved this month, but nothing to cover awards of over \$200 million expected later in the year.

The Secretary-General noted that Iraq had exported substantial volumes of oil which had not been paid for before Security Council sanctions against it took effect in August 1990. He also noted that 30 per cent of Iraqi oil-related funds deposited to an escrow account was to be designated for the Compensation Fund. He urged the Council to consider acting swiftly to facilitate the transfer to the Compensation Fund of Iraqi oil-related frozen funds or proceeds from oil sales. That would allow the Compensation Commission to give the victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait the quick and effective justice it had been mandated to provide.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has appealed to the warring sides in Yemen to allow a convoy of emergency relief supplies to reach Somalis trapped in the Al Koud refugee camp. The convoy, which was scheduled to leave Aden today, will have to cross the front line one kilometre from the camp. A joint UNHCR-International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team which reached the camp on Saturday was told 175 refugees had been killed and an unknown number wounded since the fighting began in early May.

A UNHCR representative said the camp's remaining 1,500 residents had little or no water, food or medical supplies. The agency was today considering evacuating those people, as well as 4,500 refugees who had fled into the surrounding countryside.

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The Security Council has welcomed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's intention to appoint three military personnel to advise his Representative in Cambodia, Benny Widyono. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 13 May, Council President Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) noted that the mandate of the United Nations Military Liaison Team (UNMLT)

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16 May 1994

would expire on 15 May. The three advisers would help Mr. Widyono to fulfil his mandate, in accordance with the spirit and principles of the Paris Agreements.

In a letter to the Council dated 6 May, the Secretary-General recalled that the Cambodian Government had asked for an extension of UNMLT's mandate for six months. In proposing the appointment of the military advisers, he said that the presence of United Nations personnel in Cambodia contributed to a sense of security among the country's people.

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Some 200 non-governmental organizations from Canada, the English speaking Caribbean and the United States will meet in New York from 18 to 20 May to discuss ways to mobilize civil society in the fight against drug abuse. The International NGO Conference on "Involving communities in the global drug problem" will be held under the auspices of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). It will open at Headquarters, and will then meet at the Hotel Intercontinental in Manhattan.

The Conference will seek to enhance the involvement of NGOs in activities to reduce drug demand, and to widen awareness of drug issues. It is part of a number of regional consultations being held to develop an international NGO strategy for the 1994 World Forum on the Role of NGOs in Drug Demand Reduction. The Forum, to be organized by the UNDCP, will take place next December in Bangkok.

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United Nations

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17 May 1994

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Security Council raises UNAMIR strength to 5,500 troops and expands mandate to provide security for civilians and humanitarian operations in Rwanda; demands end to mindless violence and imposes arms embargo against country.
- + As Committee on Information concludes general debate, speakers urge DPI to adopt balanced approach in publicizing peace-keeping and development activities.
- + Chairman of Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights warns economic restructuring may undermine those rights.
- + Brazil tells Commission on Sustainable Development that UNCED's accomplishments were modest; says some States have not lived up to commitments under programme of action.
- + Tuzla airport shelled as UNPROFOR flight carrying Jordanian personnel and mortar-locating equipment lands; no casualties reported.
- + Special Envoy Vance concludes parallel talks with delegations from former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece; Foreign Ministers of both countries to return to New York for further talks in June.

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The Security Council has increased the strength of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to 5,500 troops and expanded its mandate to provide security for civilians and humanitarian operations. In adopting resolution 918 (1994) this morning, the Council demanded an end to the mindless violence in Rwanda, and imposed an arms embargo on the country. The resolution was adopted unanimously as a whole, after the second of its three parts had been approved by 14 votes in favour to one against (Rwanda). That part required all States to prevent the sale or supply of arms and military equipment to Rwanda.

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The resolution expanded UNAMIR's mandate to include, within resource limits, the protection of displaced persons, civilians at risk and humanitarian relief operations, and the establishment of secure humanitarian areas in Rwanda. The Council asked the Secretary-General to immediately redeploy UNAMIR military observers now in Nairobi to Rwanda, and to bring the infantry battalion already there up to full strength. It asked him to report as soon as possible on UNAMIR's next phase, including the cooperation of the parties, progress towards a cease-fire, the availability of resources, and the proposed duration of the Mission's mandate. It also asked him to report on the investigation of human rights violations in Rwanda, and on the humanitarian situation there. The Council encouraged the Secretary-General to accelerate efforts, in conjunction with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to obtain the necessary personnel for rapid deployment.

The Council demanded that the parties in Rwanda immediately stop fighting and agree to a cease-fire. It urged them to cooperate with UNAMIR, particularly in ensuring humanitarian deliveries, and called on them to treat Kigali airport as a neutral zone under the Mission's control. The Council also invited the Secretary-General to continue to work for a political settlement in Rwanda within the framework of the Arusha Peace Agreement.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) should adopt a balanced approach to publicizing peace-keeping and development activities, speakers said today as the Committee on Information concluded its general debate. Tunisia said the DPI was placing too much emphasis on peace-keeping, and called for a special effort to promote the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Ethiopia said United Nations peace-keeping and peacemaking efforts should be clearly explained to the public, including what the Organization could and could not do under the Charter. The Czech Republic said increasing the volume of information on peace-keeping operations would protect the United Nations in cases when it was not viewed as objective. Jordan and Bangladesh also stressed the importance of information on peace-keeping operations, saying that their success depended on the awareness and understanding in the countries where they were taking place.

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The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights yesterday held a one day discussion on the role of social safety nets during economic restructuring or transition to a free market economy. The discussion was part of the Committee's tenth session, which began in Geneva 2 May. Committee Chairman Phillip Alston said extensive economic adjustments could have serious repercussions on economic and social rights, and noted that the Committee was the only United Nations body dealing with such rights.

The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said intensified economic competition and "down-sizing" meant the loss of jobs and

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benefits. People were now obliged to change jobs and develop new skills more frequently. However, despite such negative effects, a highly competitive environment was essential for economic growth and job creation, he concluded. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said the Committee should examine whether employment was merely a product of growth or a basic right. Social safety nets for the most vulnerable must be put in place to mitigate the effects of economic adjustment policies, the UNDP representative said.

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The global partnership embracing both environment and development is becoming the "peace policy of the future", Klaus Topfer, the current chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development said yesterday. The Commission was beginning its second session at Headquarters, during which it will review implementation of the programme of action adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Mr. Topfer said peace was threatened by ecologically subsidized development on one hand, and underdevelopment on the other, and called for worldwide cooperation to share limited natural resources.

Brazil, which hosted UNCED, said the Conference's accomplishments had been modest; some developed countries lacked the political will to provide funding or to transfer technology, and there had been visible efforts to elude the programme of action. Outgoing Chairman Razali Ismail said the hard-won compact between North and South should not be frittered away, and urged States to live up to their responsibilities under the programme.

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Some 7 or 8 shells were fired at Tuzla airport today just after an aircraft belonging to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had landed there, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He said the shells appeared to have been fired from Bosnian Serb positions.

The aircraft unloaded its passengers -- Jordanian UNPROFOR personnel -- and a cargo of mortar-locating radar equipment, and took off safely, the spokesman said. He noted that the aircraft was the first flight into Tuzla airport since mid-April. The shelling caused no casualties, but there was some light damage to airport facilities.

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Special Envoy Cyrus Vance today announced that he had held parallel, in-depth talks with delegations from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece in New York since 13 May. The delegations -- headed respectively by Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski and Secretary-General Christos Zacharakis of the Greek Foreign Ministry -- exchanged views with Mr. Vance on various suggestions submitted to them with a view to resolving their differences.

Mr. Vance said both parties had agreed to return to New York on or about 13 June for further talks at the level of Foreign Minister.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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18 May 1994

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + UNAMIR Force Commander negotiates with Government of Rwanda and RPF to ensure safe passage and freedom of movement for military observers returning to Kigali from Nairobi; 50 expected to arrive within days.
- + United Nations Commission on Human Rights to begin special session in Geneva on Tuesday to discuss human rights situation in Rwanda.
- + World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to begin in Yokohama on 23 May; Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs says disasters have killed 3 million people in last decade.
- + Secretary-General's Spokesman to visit former Yugoslavia with view to improving presentation of information on United Nations efforts there.
- + WFP launches major operation to aid 150,000 people displaced by recent ethnic fighting in Ghana.

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Military observers belonging to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) have already begun returning from Nairobi to Kigali, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. Meanwhile, Force Commander Romeo Dallaire has been negotiating with the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) to ensure safe passage and freedom of movement for the observers.

There are now 300 UNAMIR personnel in Kigali, and 50 more are expected to arrive there within days, the spokesman said. Preparations are also under way for the deployment of the balance of the Ghanaian battalion already in Rwanda, and those troops will be equipped with armoured personnel carriers. The spokesman said that operation was expected to take two weeks, but added, "We are in the hands of the Governments contributing the troops and equipment."

The Security Council, in resolution 918 (1994), yesterday increased UNAMIR's strength to 5,500 troops and expanded its mandate to provide security for civilians and humanitarian operations.

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At the request of Canada, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights will begin a two-day special session in Geneva next Tuesday to discuss the human rights situation in Rwanda. The Canadian request was endorsed by 45 of the Commission's 53 members. The Commission is the principal United Nations body entrusted with the world-wide promotion and protection of human rights. It normally meets once a year, for six weeks, to analyse, report on and monitor those rights.

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More than 3 million people have been killed in natural disasters in the last decade, Peter Hansen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, said this morning. In 1991-1992, such disasters resulted in economic losses of more than \$100 billion. Mr. Hansen was briefing correspondents at Headquarters on the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which will start next Monday in Yokohama, Japan.

The Conference will be the first meeting of senior policy makers, technical experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations to try to develop strategies for coping with natural disasters. It will also seek to find out why the number of natural disasters has increased greatly in the last 30 years.

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The Spokesman for the Secretary-General, Joe Sills, is undertaking a visit to the former Yugoslavia with a view to improving the presentation of information on United Nations efforts there. The need for such an improvement was among the issues raised by the Secretary-General in a high-level meeting on the former Yugoslavia in Paris last week. Mr. Sills will meet with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi during his visit, which will last one week.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has launched a major operation to aid nearly 150,000 people displaced by recent ethnic fighting in Ghana. The WFP -- the largest food aid organization in the world -- will provide them with more than 11,000 metric tons of food for five months.

Inter-ethnic clashes in northern Ghana in February left more than 1,000 people dead, 1,500 wounded and 300 villages burned to the ground. The fighting also destroyed significant amounts of food stocks, resulting in local food shortages, according to the WFP. Northern Ghana is the country's major producer of staple crops, and the food situation could worsen if displaced people are unable to return to their villages for the planting season.

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United Nations

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19 May 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + United Nations Headquarters in Kigali hit by 12 shells as fighting in Rwandan capital intensifies; prospective contributors to UNAMIR meet in New York.
- + Secretary-General says Transitional Government could soon resolve Liberian conflict if new Foreign Minister is inducted as scheduled today; notes progress in implementing Cotonou Agreement.
- + Secretary-General welcomes Malawi's first multiparty elections, citing hope for democracy and economic growth.
- + Member States owe United Nations \$2.98 billion as of 15 May; \$990 million owed to regular budget and \$1.99 billion to peace-keeping.
- + Assistant Secretary-General Sanbar says DPI will work to make development issues more attractive to media; solid information programme on peace-keeping operations would counter unrealistic expectations.
- + Second United Nations Conference on Disarmament to be opened by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in Hiroshima on 24 May.

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The United Nations Headquarters in Kigali was hit today by around 12 shells as fighting in the Rwandan capital intensified, according to a spokesman for the Organization. It was not known whether the facility had been deliberately targeted. Meanwhile, heavy fighting around the airport resulted in the suspension of flights by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).

The spokesman announced that a meeting of prospective contributors to UNAMIR would be held in New York today. He said some 42 states had been invited to attend that meeting, but stressed that the recent appeal for contributions of troops and equipment had been universal.

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If the new Foreign Minister of Liberia is inducted as scheduled today, the National Transitional Government might soon resolve the country's tragic conflict, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has told the Security Council. In a report dated 18 May, he noted that the Council of State had been installed -- as required by the Cotonou Agreement and Security Council resolution 911 (1994) -- and the Transitional Government had held its first cabinet meeting on 13 May. He praised the Liberian parties, as well as the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for those achievements.

The Secretary-General said a team of international experts would visit Liberia next week to consult with the Government and the Election Commission. The team will discuss various aspects of United Nations assistance in the country's forthcoming elections. It will also review Liberia's Constitution and advise on how to increase public awareness of the electoral process. The Secretary-General stressed that much still needed to be done in the areas of disarmament and demobilization, and called on the international community to support Liberia in its efforts to implement the Cotonou Agreement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the first multiparty elections held in Malawi since independence in 1964, and expressed the hope that they would open the way to democracy and economic growth. He congratulated the people of Malawi on the manner in which the elections had been held, noted the way in which the incumbent had conceded victory to the opposition.

The Secretary-General said Malawi's achievement was a source of encouragement for Africa and beyond, and merited the full support of the international community. He also expressed satisfaction at the United Nations contribution to the country's transition.

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As of 15 May, Member States owed the United Nations a total of \$2.98 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, \$990 million was for assessments for the regular budget and \$1.99 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed almost \$300 million to the regular budget, and more than \$550 million to the peace-keeping budget, for the current year; it owed more than \$230 million and \$100 million respectively for prior years. Japan and the Russian Federation had regular budget contributions outstanding for the current year, but not for previous years. However, the Russian Federation owed almost \$580 million in total peace-keeping contributions.

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The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, today said that the Department of Public Information (DPI) would challenge the "good news is no news" theory by making development issues more attractive to the media. He told the Committee on Information that much of the work of the United Nations was development-related, but the media often focused on the political arena. He added that the DPI would highlight the issues raised in the Secretary-General's forthcoming report "an agenda for development".

Stressing the need for an integrated information strategy, Mr. Sanbar said a solid programme to inform public opinion on peace-keeping operations -- particularly in the countries hosting them -- would counter unrealistic expectations and promote cooperation in the long run.

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The Second United Nations Conference on Disarmament will be held in Hiroshima, Japan, from 24 to 27 May, under the general theme, "Transparency in Armaments, Regional Dialogue and Disarmament." The Conference is being convened by the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs, in close cooperation with the Government of Japan and the City of Hiroshima. It will be opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, and a high-level representative of the Japanese Government.

The Conference will review pressing disarmament and security issues and examine efforts to promote regional dialogue, particularly in South and North-East Asia. Some 70 government officials, parliamentary representatives, academics and members of the media will attend the Conference in their personal capacities.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1649

20 May 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says Haitian Army has taken no steps to comply with Security Council requirements for lifting of sanctions due to take effect tomorrow; Commander-in-Chief supported recent illegal attempt to replace President Aristide.

+ Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations to visit Rwanda to consult with parties on implementation of UNAMIR mandate; Secretary-General's Military Adviser to discuss deployment plan with Force Commander.

+ IAEA says Democratic People's Republic of Korea has breached nuclear safeguards agreement by discharging reactor fuel without implementing necessary safeguards measures; proposes sending team to country to discuss situation.

+ Fiftieth Anniversary Preparatory Committee recommends that General Assembly hold special meeting in 1995 to commemorate anniversary of United Nations Charter.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the Security Council that the Haitian Armed Forces have not taken any steps to comply with paragraph 18 of resolution 917 (1994). That paragraph provided that a comprehensive commercial embargo against Haiti -- due to take effect tomorrow -- would remain in force until the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces retired; the Chief of Police of Port-au-Prince and Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces resigned; and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned to the country. It also required the creation of a proper environment for free and fair legislative elections and for the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH).

In a report to the Security Council dated 19 May, the Secretary-General said there had been no change in the attitude of the Haitian Armed Forces. On the contrary, the Commander-in-Chief had supported the recent attempt to

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illegally replace President Aristide, an action which had been strongly condemned by the Council.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Iqbal Riza, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, to visit Rwanda in order to consult the parties there on all aspects of the implementation of the expanded mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Mr. Riza will be accompanied by the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, Major-General Maurice Baril.

Mr. Riza will discuss with the parties the modalities for cooperation with UNAMIR, while Major-General Baril will discuss with the Force Commander, General Romeo Dallaire, details of the deployment plan for the next phase of the operation. They will leave New York tonight and are expected to arrive in Rwanda on Sunday. As UNAMIR's new mandate is fundamentally to protect humanitarian activities, the Secretary-General has asked Special Representative Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh to base himself in Nairobi for talks with Governments in the region.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has seriously breached the nuclear safeguards agreement by discharging fuel from its Experimental Nuclear Reactor without implementing safeguards measures requested by the Agency. The IAEA yesterday asked the People's Republic to promptly make arrangements for those safeguards and to defer any further fuel discharge.

The IAEA said it would be unable to determine if the People's Republic had diverted nuclear material if the country continued discharge operations without implementing the safeguards measures. The Agency proposed sending a team of officials to the People's Republic immediately to discuss arrangements for implementing those measures.

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The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations has recommended that the General Assembly hold a special meeting next year to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter. Under a draft resolution approved yesterday, the Assembly would invite Heads of State or Government to address the two-day meeting beginning 22 October.

Updating the Committee on preparations for the Organization's Fiftieth Anniversary, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Public Policy, Gillian Martin Sorensen, said 44 national committees had been established, and another 26 proposed. There were also plans for a global teach-in, and the United Nations was working with educational institutions to prepare material on its history and activities. A children's history of the Organization would be issued in the six official languages, as well as in German and Japanese.

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expressed concern at the continued fighting among and within Liberian factions, which had virtually halted the disarmament process.

The Council said the fighting made it very difficult for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) to implement its mandate. The fighting also prevented the Cease-Fire Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG) from carrying out functions regarding disarmament and demobilization. That situation threatened the ability of the parties to maintain the Cotonou Agreement timetable. The Council called on the parties to resolve their difference within the forum of the Transitional Government and the Agreement, and to end the fighting. It also reminded them of the importance it attached to the elections to be held on 7 September.

The Council reaffirmed its intention to review the situation in Liberia again by 30 June, and asked the Secretary-General to prepare options by that date regarding the future implementation of UNOMIL's mandate and its continued operations. It reminded the parties that responsibility for the success of the peace process rested with them and the Liberian people, and urged them to fully respect the Cotonou Agreement.

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The Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Iqbal Riza, and the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, today held talks in northern Rwanda with representatives of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). According to a United Nations spokesman, arrangements were being made to guarantee their safe passage to Kigali, where Mr. Riza and General Baril planned further talks on implementation of Security Council resolution 918 (1994). That resolution increased the strength of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to 5,500 troops and expanded its mandate to provide security for civilians and humanitarian relief operations. Earlier today, the two parties to the conflict agreed to a cease-fire to facilitate Mr. Riza's mission.

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Back at Headquarters after his recent visit to Europe and South Africa, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with the Foreign Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres. Their discussion focused on the Middle East peace process, particularly the implementation of the Gaza/Jericho stage of the Declaration of Principles.

The Secretary-General informed Mr. Peres of his efforts to ensure a coordinated approach for the provision of United Nations economic and social assistance in the occupied territories, and of his intention to appoint a Special Coordinator soon. He said the Organization was prepared to play a greater role in the search for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East. He noted the long experience there of agencies

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such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has expressed its willingness to receive a consultation team of senior safeguards officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). However, in a telex to the Agency dated 19 May, the People's Republic reaffirmed its position on the safeguards measures in connection with the refuelling of its 5MWe Experimental Power Reactor. The IAEA team is expected to arrive in the country tomorrow, and will seek to clarify means of implementing the requisite safeguards measures at the Reactor.

Last week, the IAEA said the People's Republic had seriously breached the nuclear safeguards agreement by discharging fuel from the Experimental Reactor without implementing the safeguards measures. It asked the People's Republic to make arrangements for those safeguards and to defer any further fuel discharge, saying it would otherwise be unable to determine if nuclear material had been diverted.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has highlighted the need for immediate compliance with the Security Council's demand, in resolution (913) 1994, for a cease-fire agreement in Gorazde and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a report to the Council dated 19 May, he said that without such an agreement, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would not be able to ensure compliance with partial cease-fires, military exclusion zones and ultimatums by regional organizations.

The Secretary-General stressed the need for a comprehensive cease-fire lasting at least four months. During that period, every effort must be made to achieve an overall political settlement by all parties. He noted that some troop contributors had indicated that they would withdraw their contingents from UNPROFOR if substantial progress were not achieved within two months.

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Disaster mitigation could not be divorced from development issues, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, told delegates today at the opening of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan. Natural disasters inflicted fewer casualties in high-income countries, but development could also harm the environment, with unforeseen consequences, he noted. During periods of rapid economic growth, governments did not always enforce construction codes or industrial laws designed to protect the environment. However, one disaster could cause immense human, economic and social losses and critically damage development plans.

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Mr. Hansen said a coordinated international strategy for disaster mitigation was like preventive diplomacy -- it reduced the threat before disasters became crises. The problem of mega-cities and global population growth had not been adequately addressed, he continued. Within twenty years, half the world's population would live in urban areas. Urban planning must integrate disaster mitigation practices to ensure the world's cities were as safe as possible.

* * *

The Trusteeship Council will begin its sixty-first session at Headquarters tomorrow, during which it will consider the situation in Palau, the last remaining Territory in the United Nations trusteeship system. The Council will have before it the 1993 report of the Administering Authority, the United States, on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The people of Palau last year voted by a margin of more than two to one to ratify the Compact of Free Association with the United States, and the report expresses the hope that implementation of the Compact would begin this year.

In a report to the Security Council in January, the Trusteeship Council said it hoped that the Trusteeship Agreement for Palau could soon be terminated. In 1990, the Council terminated the Arrangement for the other three entities comprising the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1651
24 May 1994

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping meets with Rwandan Government military leaders in Kigali, as partial truce holds in city; Ghana, Senegal and Ethiopia announce troop contributions to UNAMIR.
- + Members of Human Rights Commission call for appointment of special rapporteur and human rights monitors to follow situation in Rwanda; Chairman proposes investigations of rights violations and acts of genocide, with view to prosecuting those responsible.
- + MICIVIH condemns murders of four political militants in Haiti; says members of organizations which support return of constitutional order are being systematically eliminated.
- + Addressing Conference on Sarajevo, Special Representative Akashi reiterates need for political settlement negotiated by Bosnian parties; says restoration of essential public service in city requires systematic and coordinated approach.
- + Acting Special Representative for Somalia opens Lower Juba Reconciliation Conference in Kismayo.

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The Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Iqbal Riza, today held talks in Kigali with Rwandan Government military leaders, including the Chiefs-of-Staff of the Army and the Gendarmerie. A United Nations spokesman said Mr. Riza and the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, flew into the city from Nairobi, following talks in Northern Rwanda yesterday with the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). The spokesman said a partial truce was still being observed in Kigali, but fighting continued throughout the rest of the country.

Meanwhile, the Governments of Ghana, Senegal and Ethiopia have announced that they will contribute troops to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Ghana has agreed to restore its unit in Kigali to battalion strength, while Senegal and Ethiopia have each pledged a battalion. The

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United Nations is holding discussions with other potential troop contributors, the spokesman added.

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Members of the Commission on Human Rights today called for the appointment of a special rapporteur and human rights monitors to follow the situation in Rwanda. Beginning a two-day special session in Geneva this morning, the Commission emphasized that those responsible for the atrocities in that country must be held accountable. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, said that the list of innocent victims kept growing in a war that would be "inscribed in the darkest annals of human history". Not since the Second World War had there been so many dead -- possibly 500,000 -- in so short a time. He urged the Commission to take concrete action to ensure respect for fundamental human rights in Rwanda.

Commission Chairman Peter Van Wulfften Palthe (Netherlands) called for immediate action to alleviate the plight of the Rwandan people. He proposed that experts be sent to the area immediately, to investigate human rights violations and acts of genocide, so as to establish a basis for the prosecution of every individual responsible for those crimes.

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The International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) has condemned the murders of four political militants in the Cité Soleil neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince on Sunday night. Each of the victims was shot dead in cold blood, while another six people were wounded the same night.

MICIVIH noted that the same group of armed civilians had been responsible for each of the killings, and that there had already been numerous attacks of the same type in Cité Soleil. The Mission said it appeared that members of popular organizations which supported the return of constitutional order in Haiti were being systematically eliminated.

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The Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, today said that the reconstruction of Sarajevo would require an overall political settlement negotiated by the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Addressing the Coordination Conference on the Plan of Action for Sarajevo in Vienna today, he stressed that the United Nations was fully committed to achieving a total and immediate end to the fighting on the ground.

Mr. Akashi said that the people of Sarajevo had made significant progress towards the restoration of their city since the cease-fire had come into effect there more than one hundred days ago. Electricity services were being restored, some trams were running and small shops were reopening. It was now time to adopt a more systematic and coordinated approach to the restoration of essential public services. While emergency aid was still essential to

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Sarajevo's survival, a smooth and phased transition to rehabilitation and reconstruction had to be carefully planned. Priorities had to be clearly defined to make the best use of limited resources.

The work of restoring essential services to Sarajevo could not be confined to the city itself, Mr. Akashi noted. Some services were an integral part of larger networks, and planning must take into account infrastructural issues in the rest of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Acting Special Representative for Somalia, Lansana Kouyate, today opened the Lower Juba Reconciliation Conference in the city of Kismayo. The gathering of Somali political leaders is the first of a series of three meetings designed to culminate in the formation of a transitional government. According to a United Nations spokesman, rival Somali political factions reached an important reconciliation yesterday in Kismayo which allowed the conference to go ahead.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1652
25 May 1994

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Secretary-General presents An Agenda for Development, saying development is main United Nations activity and prerequisite for peace; advocates universal culture of development, based on peace, economic growth, environmental protection, social justice and democracy.
- + Security Council meets to take action on draft resolution ending mandatory arms embargo and other measures against South Africa.
- + Secretary-General describes international response to Rwanda crisis as a scandal and a failure; says genocide has been committed while international community has been discussing what to do.
- + Terje Roed Larsen of Norway appointed as Special Coordinator in occupied territories, effective 1 June; to oversee United Nations activities and support implementation of Declaration of Principles.
- + Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNDOF mandate for six months; says situation in Middle East remains potentially dangerous despite calm in Israel-Syria sector.
- + Special Envoy Caputo and United States official travel to Dominican Republic to discuss Haiti sanctions and border between two countries.
- + At final session, Committee on Information approves draft resolutions on integration of information centres with UNDP field offices and on increase in Committee's membership.
- + Speakers at World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction stress need for disaster prevention and preparedness strategies.
- + IAEA says reports that nuclear material is unaccounted for at Japan's Tokai Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Plant are incorrect; material in question has been declared and is fully safeguarded.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today launched his report "An Agenda for Development", saying he wished to counter the perception that the United Nations was focusing too much on peace-keeping operations. In a press conference at Headquarters, he noted that the Organization spent \$3.6 billion each year on development, compared with \$2 billion on peace-keeping. He stressed that development was a prerequisite for peace, and that it was the main activity of the United Nations.

An Agenda for Development -- a counterpart to An Agenda for Peace -- warns that the world may be paying insufficient attention to development amid new problems in the wake of the cold war. It calls for a universal, human-centred "culture of development", built on the foundations of peace, economic growth, environmental protection, social justice and democracy. Without peace, human energies cannot be productively employed, it says. Without economic growth, there can be no broad-based improvement in material well-being; without protection of the environment, human survival will be threatened; without societal justice, inequalities will undermine social cohesion; and without political participation in freedom, development will always be at risk.

"Absolute poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy are the lot of one-fifth of the world's population", the Secretary-General says. "There can be no more urgent task for development than to attack both the causes and the symptoms of these ills."

The Agenda will be the subject of the 6 to 10 June "World Hearings on Development", organized by General Assembly President Samuel Insanally, and will later be considered by the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General will present his final conclusions and recommendations on the Agenda during the Assembly's next session, which will begin in September.

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The Security Council met this evening to take action on a draft resolution which would terminate the mandatory arms embargo and other measures against South Africa contained in various Council resolutions. The draft would also dissolve the Council Committee on the question of South Africa.

By the draft, the Council would welcome South Africa's first all-race multi-party election, which took place last month, and the establishment of a united, democratic, non-racial South African Government. The draft stressed the urgent need to facilitate the country's reintegration into the international community, including the United Nations system.

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At his press conference at Headquarters today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali described the international community's response to the situation in Rwanda as a scandal and a failure. He said genocide had been committed there, but the international community was still discussing what should be done. The Secretary-General said he had begged various Heads of

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States to send peace-keeping troops to Rwanda, but without success. To date, only Ethiopia, Ghana and Senegal had officially confirmed that they would contribute troops to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).

Meanwhile, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Iqbal Riza, and the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, today met with representatives of the Rwandan Government in a town 40 kilometres south-west of Kigali. They then returned to the capital, and were expected to meet again with the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), according to the Secretary-General.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of Terje Roed Larsen of Norway as Special Coordinator in the occupied territories, effective 1 June. Ambassador Larsen played an important role in facilitating the talks between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) which led to the signing of the Declaration of Principles last year and to this month's agreement on Gaza and Jericho.

The Secretary-General said Ambassador Larsen would be a focal point for United Nations economic, social and other activities in the occupied territories. He would guide United Nations programmes and agencies operating there so as to ensure an integrated and unified approach to economic and social development. As requested by the parties, he would also support the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. The Secretary-General added that Ambassador Larsen had a deep knowledge of the area, excellent contacts with the parties, and expertise in the economic and social fields.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) be extended for six months until 30 November, saying that the situation in the Middle East remains potentially dangerous despite the present calm in the Israel-Syria sector. In a report to the Security Council dated 22 May, he noted that both countries had assented to the proposed extension.

UNDOF was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the Council and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces. In the last six months, it has performed its functions effectively with the cooperation of the parties, according to the Secretary-General. The Force Commander has maintained close contact with Israeli and Syrian military liaison staffs, supervised the area of separation, conducted regular inspections of force levels in the areas of limitation, and assisted the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Secretary-General noted that the General Assembly had authorized commitments for UNDOF of up to \$2.7 million gross per month for the six months from 1 June. He also noted that unpaid assessments to the UNDOF special account totaled some \$21 million as of 27 April.

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The Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), Dante Caputo, and United States Special Envoy William Gray are travelling to the Dominican Republic for consultations with the authorities there, a United Nations spokesman announced today. They will discuss the question of the Dominican Republic's border with Haiti in the context of current Security Council sanctions against that country.

* * *

The Committee on Information yesterday approved a draft resolution endorsing the continued integration of information centres with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) field offices. According to the draft, which was approved without a vote, integration should be carried out on a case-by-case basis, taking the views of host countries into account.

During its final session, the Committee also approved a draft resolution on information in the service of humanity. It would have the General Assembly urge States and organizations to provide support to developing countries and their media. Such support could include the development of human and technical resources and greater access to advanced communications technology available on the open market. A third draft was approved by which the Committee's membership would be increased from 83 to 87, to include Belize, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Kazakhstan.

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A new paradigm for emergency management based on formal partnerships between all sectors of society was the focus of yesterday's first meeting of the Main Committee of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan. Committee Chairman Omar Dario Cardona said government, business and non-governmental organizations had come together in a United Nations forum for the first time to discuss ways to build a "preventive culture" with regard to disasters.

The Director of the WHO's Division of Emergency and Humanitarian Action, Fabrizio Bassani, told the Committee that short-term measures did little to solve long-term problems. The current crisis-solving approach to disasters was not sustainable, and money spent on emergency aid was being diverted from disaster preparedness. National capacities must be expanded to deal with disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation, he said.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today said that recent reports that a sizeable amount of nuclear material was unaccounted for at Japan's Tokai Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Plant were incorrect. The material in

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question was dust which had accumulated in glove boxes at the plant, and was being held in place to minimize the radiation exposure of the staff. It had been duly declared and remained under full safeguards.

The IAEA said that the Tokai Plant had the most advanced nuclear material accounting system in existence, and provided information on the movement and quantities of nuclear material on a timely basis. All nuclear material entering and leaving the facility was measured and verified.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1653

26 May 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council extends ONUSAL mandate for six months; Mission to verify compliance with outstanding provisions of El Salvador Peace Accords and to withdraw according to progress on implementation.
- + Security Council extends UNDOF mandate to 30 November; says situation in Israel-Syria sector is likely to remain potentially dangerous until comprehensive Middle East settlement concluded.
- + In resolution adopted last night, Security Council lifts arms embargo and other measures against South Africa; welcomes recent all-race election and establishment of democratic Government; South African Deputy President hails victory for United Nations and for world.
- + Security Council, in Presidential statement, demands immediate and full compliance with resolution 913 (1994), requiring cease-fire agreement in Gorazde and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- + Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNOSOM II mandate for six months and reaffirm its aim to end Operation by next March; troop strength to be maintained subject to military and political situation in Somalia.
- + Zimbabwe offers to contribute infantry battalion to UNAMIR; Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping completes mission in Rwanda.
- + In address at Johns Hopkins University, Secretary-General says United Nations is best mechanism for promoting global development; notes that Member States owe Organization almost \$3 billion.
- + General Assembly President invites 30 eminent persons to testify at World Hearings on Development from 6 to 10 June; participants to air views on Secretary-General's Agenda for Development.
- + Secretary-General reiterates recent appeal for end to fighting in Yemen in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

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+ Speakers tell Committee on Palestinian Rights of optimism following recent development in occupied territories, but warn that actions by Israeli settlers threaten peace process.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for six months until 30 November, in the terms recommended by the Secretary-General in his report of 11 May. In that report, the Secretary-General said that ONUSAL should continue to verify compliance with outstanding provisions of the El Salvador Peace Accords, and that the Mission's size should be reduced according to how quickly they were implemented. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 920 (1994).

The Council welcomed the recent holding of two rounds of elections in appropriate conditions in El Salvador, but expressed concern that important elements of the Peace Accords remained only partially implemented. It urged the Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to comply with the "Agreement on a timetable for the implementation of the most important agreements pending". The Council also urged all concerned to remove obstacles to full implementation of land transfer programmes and stressed the need to accelerate reintegration programmes for ex-combatants. It reaffirmed the need for full and timely implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report by 31 August on compliance with the timetable and relevant issues. It also asked him to report by 1 November on ONUSAL, on the completion of its mandate and on modalities for its progressive withdrawal. The Council invited the Secretary-General to prepare modalities for assisting El Salvador, within the framework of the Peace Accords, in the post-ONUSAL period.

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In a second meeting today, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for six months until 30 November. UNDOF was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces. In unanimously adopting resolution 921 (1994), the Council called on the two parties to immediately implement its resolution 338 (1973), which called for a just and durable peace settlement to the Middle East conflict. It also asked the Secretary-General to report by 30 November on developments in the situation and on the measures taken to implement that resolution.

In a complementary statement by its President, Ibrahim A. Bambari (Nigeria), after the adoption of resolution 921, the Council said it shared the view expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 20 of his 22 May report on UNDOF. That paragraph warned that despite the present quiet in the

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Israel-Syria sector, the situation was likely to remain potentially dangerous until a comprehensive settlement of all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

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The Security Council last night decided to lift its mandatory arms embargo and other restrictions against South Africa. In unanimously adopting resolution 919 (1994), the Council stressed the urgent need to facilitate South Africa's reintegration into the international community. It welcomed the recent all-race election and the establishment of a democratic and non-racial South African Government. The Council also dissolved its Committee on the question of South Africa.

Addressing the Council, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa said "the victory that has been won in South Africa belongs as much to the people of our country as to this Organization and the peoples of the world." South Africa was now recognized as a democracy; it was committed to being a good citizen of the world, and could be counted on to adhere to the important goals of international peace and security.

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The Security Council last night demanded immediate and full compliance with its resolution 913 (1994), which required the immediate conclusion of a cease-fire agreement in Gorazde and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a statement read out by its President, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), the Council called on the parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the implementation of that resolution in respect of Gorazde.

The Council reiterated the urgent need for an overall political settlement in the former Yugoslavia, and called on the parties to resume efforts towards that end without preconditions. Reaffirming the need for a complete end to the fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it expressed support for the Secretary-General's decision to give his Special Representative and the UNPROFOR Force Commander the task of achieving that goal. It also welcomed the call for a cessation of hostilities in a joint communiqué issued on 13 May by the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, and European Commissioner Hans van den Broek.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) be extended for six months, saying the Somali people deserve "a last chance." In a report dated 24 May, he also recommended that the Security Council reaffirm its objective, set out in resolution 897 (1994), to end that mandate by March 1995. The Operation's authorized strength of 22,000 should be maintained, subject to periodic reviews of the military and political situation, and progress towards

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reconciliation, in Somalia. The Secretary-General said the first review would follow his report on the upcoming National Reconciliation Conference, or on 15 July if the Conference had not taken place by then.

The Secretary-General noted that all the Somali political leaders had appealed to UNOSOM II to continue supporting their reconciliation and rehabilitation efforts. However, despite the more positive attitude towards the Operation, the security situation had deteriorated steadily in Somalia, with military groups rearming and a rise in banditry. The Secretary-General warned that if the Somali leaders failed to work for political reconciliation, he might recommend that the United Nations force be reduced or withdrawn. Accordingly, he had instructed UNOSOM II to prepare a contingency plan for withdrawal from Somalia.

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Zimbabwe has offered to contribute an infantry battalion to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), according to a spokesman for the Organization. With existing offers from Ethiopia, Ghana and Senegal, the United Nations has now secured four of the five battalions needed for the Mission, and is "reasonably confident" that a fifth can be obtained, he said. Efforts will now focus on securing the necessary equipment and support units for the infantry battalions.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Iqbal Riza, and the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, completed their mission in Rwanda after further talks with representatives of the Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). Mr. Riza and General Baril will now travel to Somalia, the spokesman noted.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reiterated that the United Nations was the best mechanism for promoting global development. Addressing the Commencement ceremony of the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, he said peace, economic growth, environmental protection, justice and democracy were all essential for State and human security. They were integral parts of a comprehensive vision of development, which could only be realized through multilateral action.

It was not realistic to expect the United Nations to succeed beyond the willingness of its Member States to act, the Secretary-General continued. The necessary policies, personnel, political will and resources all came -- or failed to come -- from Member States. He noted that the United Nations was owed \$990 million for the regular budget and \$1.99 billion for the peace-keeping budget, and stressed that the Organization must be given the resources to meet the responsibilities assigned to it.

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General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) has invited some 30 eminent figures to testify at the World Hearings on Development, to be at Headquarters from 6 to 10 June. Participants will include prominent academics, former national leaders and media specialists such as Nobel Laureate Lawrence R. Klein, of the University of Pennsylvania Economics Department; Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania; and Ted Turner, President of the Cable News Network. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will address the opening ceremony on 6 June.

The Hearings are being held against the backdrop of the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Development", which warns that development is receding from the international agenda in an era of sweeping technological and economic change. Mr. Insanally expects the Hearings to yield innovative views on how to realize the Secretary-General's call for "a compelling collective vision of development" centred within the United Nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday with the Permanent Representative of Yemen, Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal, and reiterated his recent appeal for an end to the conflict there in accordance with the United Nations Charter. He stated that the United Nations was ready to make every effort to avoid further bloodshed and to resolve the situation in Yemen.

Ambassador Al Ashtal, who had requested the meeting with the Secretary-General, stressed that United Nations efforts should be undertaken in the context of the preservation of Yemen's unity.

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Recent developments in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have led to renewed hope for the future, Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, said yesterday. Israeli troops had withdrawn from Jericho and the Gaza Strip and turned over authority to Palestinian representatives. A Protocol on Economic Relations had been signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and a Memorandum of Understanding on a temporary international presence in Hebron had been agreed upon. The first contingent of observers had been deployed earlier this month. However, the situation in the occupied territory remained tense, and violence continued, making the Committee's work more important than ever, he concluded.

Nasser Al-Kidwa, Permanent Observer for Palestine, said the agreement on an international presence in Hebron opened new horizons, and promised further positive developments. However, he warned that there were also some dangerous aspects, citing the activity of Israeli settlers who were illegitimately present on Palestinian territory and who posed an immediate threat to the peace process. The main task now was to resume negotiations between the parties to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles on interim self-governmental arrangements.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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27 May 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General meets with President Clinton in Washington, D.C.; discussion covers situations in Rwanda, Somalia, Angola, Mozambique, Haiti and Yemen.
- + Rwandan Government and RPF to begin cease-fire talks on Monday; UNAMIR oversees transfers of 480 civilians at risk to secure areas in Kigali.
- + Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNAVEM II for three months, with structure and mandate unchanged; says Angolan Government and UNITA are within reach of comprehensive peace agreement.
- + Speakers tell Human Rights Commission that international community failed to prevent massacres in Rwanda despite evidence of impending disaster.
- + General Assembly authorizes Secretary-General to commit \$89 million to maintain UNIFIL, UNDOF, UNOMIG and Military Liaison Team in Cambodia.
- + UNHCR calls for international ban on production, use and sale of anti-personnel land-mines.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today had a "very constructive and positive" meeting with United States President Bill Clinton in Washington, D.C., according to a United Nations spokesman. They discussed peace-keeping operations around the world, and the situations in Rwanda, Somalia, Angola, Mozambique and Haiti. The Secretary-General also apprised the President of his efforts to bring the parties in Yemen to the negotiating table.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet this afternoon with Yemen's Ambassador to the United States, the spokesman continued. In the last 24 hours, he had been in contact with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United

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States and with the Foreign Minister of Yemen. Tomorrow, the Secretary-General would address the Commencement ceremony of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

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During talks yesterday with Assistant Secretary-General Iqbal Riza, the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) agreed to meet on Monday to begin discussions on a possible cease-fire, according to a United Nations spokesman. The meeting -- the first such face-to-face encounter between the two sides -- will be chaired by the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), Romeo Dallaire.

Meanwhile, the Force Commander today supervised the transfers of a total of 480 civilians at risk to secure areas in Kigali, the spokesman said. That operation is expected to continue tomorrow.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) be extended for three months, with its structure and mandate unchanged. However, in a report dated 24 May, he said the Security Council might reconsider the Mission's future if peace talks in Lusaka did not soon produce the expected positive results. He urged the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to show the flexibility needed for a comprehensive political agreement. Despite the slow progress at the talks, national reconciliation issues could be resolved with the right political will, he stressed.

The Secretary-General said that in the event of a peace agreement being concluded in Lusaka, the Council should be ready to decide immediately on the strengthening of the United Nations presence in Angola. He reiterated that the necessary logistical and financial resources would have to be forthcoming.

The Secretary-General expressed concern at the continued fighting in Angola and the resulting civilian suffering. He said military actions should cease immediately so that humanitarian operations could resume, and appealed to the parties to guarantee the safety of relief workers. He also appealed to Member States to support those operations and to be ready to provide further support in the event of a peace agreement.

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The international community failed to prevent the current wave of massacres in Rwanda despite evidence of impending disaster, representatives of non-government organizations told the Commission on Human Rights on Wednesday. As the Commission continued its special session on Rwanda, the International Commission of Jurists said the world had failed to end human rights violations which had been denounced for years at the United Nations.

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Amnesty International accused the Commission of contributing to the international failure to act in Rwanda. The Commission's own Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions had made 12 detailed recommendations following his mission to that country last year. Yet one month before the current wave of killings, the Commission had failed to ensure that the Rwandan Government implemented those measures.

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The General Assembly yesterday authorized the Secretary-General to commit almost \$89 million gross for the maintenance of various United Nations peace-keeping operations. It took that action by adopting five draft resolutions submitted by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Assembly authorized spending of almost \$12 million gross per month for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for six months from 1 August; \$2.7 million monthly for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) from 1 June to 30 November; \$300,000 monthly for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) from 1 July to 31 October; and \$900,000 for the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia for six months from 15 November.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has called for an international ban on the production, use and sale of anti-personnel land-mines. A UNHCR official said yesterday that the increasing indiscriminate and unrecorded use of anti-personnel land-mines was inhumane, and had far-reaching consequences for civilians, including refugees and returnees. In the absence of such a ban, the 1980 "inhumane weapons" Convention should be altered to cover internal conflicts. Those who produced or laid land-mines should be responsible for clearing them, and keeping records of mine-laying such as maps should be mandatory.

An estimated 100 million mines are scattered around the world, with another 2 million laid each year, according to the UNHCR. Clearance is dangerous and extremely expensive. The presence of mines seriously impedes the repatriation and reintegration of refugees in countries such as Mozambique, Somalia, Cambodia and Afghanistan. Some 20,000 civilians have been killed and 400,000 wounded by land-mines in Afghanistan in the past 15 years. In Cambodia, between 8 and 10 million mines have made huge areas of land unusable and hindered reconstruction and development.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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T U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Security Council extends UNAVEM II until 30 June; decides not to impose additional measures against UNITA in view of continuing peace talks in Lusaka.
- + Security Council extends UNOSOM II mandate until 30 September; to review extension by 29 July, based on humanitarian and security situations and progress towards reconciliation in Somalia; reaffirms that Operation should complete mandate by March 1995.
- + Security Council expresses concern that current discharge operations at nuclear reactor in Democratic People's Republic of Korea will preclude IAEA measurement of fuel rods within days.
- + Rwandan Government and RPF, meeting under aegis of UNAMIR, accept in principle need for cease-fire; Senegalese military observer killed by mortar fire in Kigali.
- + UNASOG monitors Libyan withdrawal from Aouzou Strip, ending territorial dispute between Libya and Chad.
- + Special Representative Akashi invites Bosnian parties to meet in Geneva on 2 and 3 June to discuss comprehensive cessation of hostilities.
- + In address at Georgetown University, Secretary-General says United Nations is best mechanism for managing international cooperation; cites flexibility, legitimacy and universal range. Human Rights Commission appoints René Degni Segui of Abidjan University as Special Rapporteur on human rights in Rwanda.
- + High Commissioner for Human Rights establishes 24-hour Human Rights Hot-Line; plans to create rights data base in Geneva.
- + WFP intensifies relief efforts in Rwanda, warning that hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced people face nutritional crisis.

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- + UNCITRAL begins three-week session at Headquarters; to discuss draft amendments on services to Model Law on Procurement of Goods and Construction.
- + World Conference on Disaster Reduction adopts Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World; underlines need for community-based approaches.
- + Secretary-General appoints Jorge Ulate-Segura, Costa Rican national, as Director of United Nations Information Centre in Copenhagen.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 30 June. In unanimously adopting resolution 922 (1994), it decided not to impose additional measures against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in view of the continuing negotiations between the parties in Lusaka. However, the Council stressed that its future decisions concerning Angola would take into account the political will demonstrated by the parties towards achieving a lasting peace. It reaffirmed its readiness to consider recommendations for an expanded United Nations presence in Angola in the event of a comprehensive peace settlement.

Strongly deploring the resurgence of military activity and the worsening humanitarian situation in Angola, the Council demanded that both parties end the fighting immediately. It condemned acts which endangered humanitarian efforts and restricted the movement of relief workers. The Council welcomed the Angolan Government's acceptance of national reconciliation proposals by the Secretary-General's Special Representative and the three observer States to the peace process. It urged UNITA to do likewise, and encouraged both parties to finalize outstanding details at the Lusaka talks. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to report no later than 30 June on those talks.

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In a second meeting today, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) until 30 September, subject to review no later than 29 July. That review will be based on a report by the Secretary-General on UNOSOM II's humanitarian mission, the political and security situation in Somalia, and progress towards national reconciliation. The Council said it might ask the Secretary-General to prepare options regarding UNOSOM II's mandate and future operations in the light of that report. It also reaffirmed the objective that the Operation complete its mission by next March. The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 923 (1994).

The Council reaffirmed the international community's commitment to helping Somalia attain political reconciliation and reconstruction, and emphasized that the Somali people bore the ultimate responsibility for

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achieving those goals. It expressed concern at delays in the reconciliation process, and at the deterioration of the security situation, and condemned continuing incidents of fighting and banditry.

The Council strongly urged all parties in Somalia to cooperate fully with UNOSOM II, to implement agreements which they had signed -- including those relating to voluntary disarmament -- and to pursue national reconciliation talks without delay. It also demanded that they refrain from acts of intimidation or violence against humanitarian or peace-keeping personnel. The Council thanked Member States which had made contributions to UNOSOM II, and underlined the importance of having the necessary troops, civilian personnel, equipment and financial support at the Operation's disposal.

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The Security Council has expressed grave concern over the assessment by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that if the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues discharge operations at its five megawatt nuclear reactor at the current rate, the IAEA will lose the opportunity to secure fuel rods for measurement within days. In a statement read by its President, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), last night, the Council strongly urged the People's Republic "only to proceed with the discharge operations at the five megawatt reactor in a manner which preserves the technical possibility of fuel measurements, in accordance with the IAEA's requirements in this regard".

The Council called for immediate consultations between the IAEA and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the necessary technical measures. It also asked the IAEA to maintain inspectors in that country to monitor activities at the reactor.

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Meeting under the aegis of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) yesterday accepted in principle the need for a cessation of hostilities, a spokesman for the Organization said today. The two sides also reaffirmed that they would cooperate with the exchanges of displaced persons which began last week. Discussions on a draft agreement will continue on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a Senegalese military observer serving with UNAMIR was killed today in Kigali when a mortar round -- apparently fired from an RPF-controlled area -- hit his vehicle.

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Libyan personnel and forces withdrew from the Aouzou Strip yesterday, marking a successful conclusion to the territorial dispute between Libya and Chad, according to a United Nations spokesman. The withdrawal was monitored by the United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group (UNASOG), made up of nine

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military observers and six support staff. UNASOG was set up by the Security Council in May to oversee implementation of the withdrawal agreement between the two countries.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has invited the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to a meeting in Geneva on 2 and 3 June aimed at achieving a comprehensive cessation of hostilities. The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, and the special envoys of the United States and the Russian Federation, Charles Redman and Vitaliy Churkin, have also been invited to attend. The meeting will build on Mr. Akashi's initiative of 21 May, in which he put forward a framework for an immediate end to the fighting. That framework included provisions for the positioning of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) between the warring parties, freedom of movement for UNPROFOR and humanitarian agencies, and the release of all prisoners of war.

Meanwhile, Mr. Akashi has expressed concern over the exchange of mortar, artillery and rocket fire in the Posavina corridor in northern Bosnia over the weekend. The firing appeared to have originated from areas under Bosnian Serb control. Mr. Akashi said the targeting of civilian areas, whether deliberate or indiscriminate, was a crime against humanity and must cease. He condemned the increase in military tension in the highly sensitive area, where a limited number of United Nations military observers were recently deployed.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the United Nations is the best instrument for managing international cooperation because of its flexibility, legitimacy and universal range. Addressing Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington on Saturday, he said the United Nations had to be employed prudently, efficiently and confidently to deal with the present world crisis.

The Secretary-General said the concepts of collective security, human rights and international law were being challenged by ethnocentrism, isolationism and cultural animosity. Even the concept of the State, the foundation-stone of international cooperation, had been eroded. As a result, he warned, some were advocating a return to power politics, spheres of influence and other dangerous techniques of the past.

The Secretary-General stressed that development was one of the great contemporary challenges. His recent Agenda for Development sought to redefine and fulfil that concept. Like peace, development had many dimensions. To be durable, it must be addressed at many levels and over the span of time. Governments bore the main responsibility for development, but there was no alternative to an active United Nations role. The Agenda showed how the Organization could serve them by providing information, setting standards and priorities, conducting field operations, and achieving coordination and consensus.

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The Commission on Human Rights has appointed René Degni Segui, Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Abidjan, as Special Rapporteur on human rights in Rwanda. The Commission took that action on Thursday, after a two-day special session on the unprecedented human tragedy in that country. In a resolution adopted without a vote, it asked Mr. Degni Segui to visit Rwanda immediately and to make recommendations on ending rights abuses there. The Special Rapporteur should provide a preliminary report within four weeks.

Saying genocidal acts might have occurred in Rwanda, the Commission condemned all breaches of international humanitarian law and rights violations there. It affirmed that all persons who had committed or authorized violations were individually responsible, and that the international community would exert every effort to bring them to justice. The Commission also called for an immediate end to the fighting in Rwanda.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, yesterday announced the establishment of a 24-hour telefax "Human Rights Hot-Line." The Hot-Line will allow the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to monitor and react rapidly to information on human rights situations. It will be available to victims of human rights violations, their relatives and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Ayala Lasso also announced plans to create a human rights data base, supported by research and documentation, in Geneva. The data base will assist Special Rapporteurs who are investigating human rights situations around the world.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has intensified its relief activities for refugees and displaced people in Rwanda, warning that hundreds of thousands of them are facing a "nutritional crisis." The WFP, the food aid organization of the United Nations, is currently delivering food to 240,000 people in Rwanda. However, it estimates that up to 1.6 million people have been displaced inside the country, while more than 450,000 have fled to Tanzania, Zaire, Uganda and Burundi.

WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini said there was an acute need for relief assistance in Kigali and southern Rwanda, where cases of malnutrition were reportedly increasing. Although the WFP has 6,000 tonnes of food in Kigali, fighting has prevented large-scale distributions to displaced people in the city.

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The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) today began a three-week session at Headquarters, during which it will discuss a set

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31 May 1994

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of draft amendments on the procurement of services to its Model Law on Procurement of Goods and Construction. The proposed amendments were completed by the Commission's Working Group on the New International Economic Order. The Model Law codifies rules designed to ensure transparency, competition and objectivity in the awarding of public contracts.

The Commission will also discuss draft guidelines for pre-hearing conferences in arbitration; efforts to draw up legal rules for electronic data interchange; progress towards a uniform law on guarantees and stand-by letters of credit; as well as a number of international conventions on trade law matters.

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At its final session on Friday, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction adopted the "Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World". The document contains "Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation", and emphasizes the importance of community-based approaches. It also proposes a strategy to the year 2000 and beyond, and contains a plan of action for activities at the international and regional levels.

The Conference concluded that policy makers and the general public were not aware of the potential benefits of disaster reduction. Nevertheless, disaster losses had been reduced in some regions as a result of training, technical developments and research at all levels. The Secretary-General of the Conference, Olavio Elo, said the final verdict on the work done in Yokohama would depend on how much safer the world was made in the next Century.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Jorge Ulate-Segura as Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Copenhagen, which provides services to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Mr. Ulate-Segura, a national of Costa Rica, assumed his duties yesterday.

Prior to his new assignment, Mr. Ulate-Segura was Spokesman and Chief of the Public Information Office of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). He has also served with the National Electoral Council of Angola and the Fact-Finding Mission to Cambodia.

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